

THE  
Copie of a Letter,

sent by an English Gentleman out of  
*France*, to a friend of his in *England*,  
concerning the great victorie which the  
French King obtained against the Duke  
de Maine, and the Romish rebels in his  
Kingdome, vpon the fourth  
daie of March last past.

1589.

Wherein is particularly expressed the names of  
fundrie noble men, with the number of horse-  
men & footmen which were drowned,  
slaine, hurt, and taken prisoners  
in the sayd Battaille.



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1590.







**THE COPY OF A LETTER,**  
sent by an English Gentleman  
forth of France, to a friend of his in  
England, concerning the great victorie which  
the French King obtained against the Duke de  
Maine, and the Romish rebels in his Kingdom,  
vpon the fourth daie of March last past.

I 5 8 9.



**M** good Friend, the manifold curtesies by me sundrie waies receiued at your handes, makes me not to bee vnmindfull of you, and the rather soz that I finde you not slack to signifie vnto me from time to time, such newes as Englands affordeth, I thought it good therefore to make requitall of some part of your paines by certesieng vnto you, the most happie and ioyfull newes now generally knowane soz truth throughout the whole Realme of France. The circumstance whereof at large deserueth a statelie stile, a large volume, and to be registred in letters of golde, such and so rare an euent the Almighty hath brought to passe, to the great comfort of the Kings Maestie (whome God preserue and prosper) to the great benefit and ioy of all his dutifull and loiall subiects,

A 2

which



which note by the providence of God both daily increase: and to the great discouragement of all the enemies to Christian religion, which to recorde or discourse by circumstance at large, I leaue to those of deepe skill and sufficient learning, to enroll amongst the noble actes of the most renowned and valiantest of our age. Onely to you I doe heare send a bryefe particular of his Maiesties good fortune happened vpon the fourth daie of March last past. A matter containing so great certaintie, and yet so incredible (for that the enemy was three to one in the field) as doth make men wonder at the same, and hardly beleue it. But there is nothing impossible to compassse or obtaine where God is the guide, nor nothing prospereth or preuaileth where Gods assistance wanteth, as I could proue by many examples: What power can preuaile to fight against Gods truth, then the which, nothing is of more force, as appeareth by that which ensueth.

It is not unknowen vnto you by our last conferente together at your lodging, where conferring with a Gentleman that had trauelled into France vpon the present state of that Countie, he declared that then the state was verie dangerous, and the land was diuided into three severall factions, which is since altered into two, the one very lawfull, being vnder the conduct of the lawfull King: the other a greater and of more danger, for that they are Traitors to their King, stirred vp in the life time of the bloudthirstie Duke of Guize, who became the onely capitall enemy against Christian religion, and the professors thereof throughout all Christendom, as appeared by the great murder, massacre and slaughter of many thousandes by him and his associates inflicted and committed at Paris in his life time vpon the professors of the reformed Religion: who as he liued, died: hee slaughtered innocentes, and bathed in their blood, till other requited him with the lyke death.

After



After which, as in the right of the Crowne for the suc-  
cession to the Crowne and Kingdome of France, (who  
had no right at all thereunto) the Duke de Maine, a man  
supported and maintained by the Pope and all the sworne e-  
nemies to the Gospel, was found by them the fittest cham-  
pion in that Countre, to rebell and rise up in armes against  
the King, being no loyall subiect, but a rebellious Traitor to  
the Crowne of France. For after the death of the French  
King, he tooke upon him the title of the King, and in most  
disloyall sorte repugned against the lawfull and Christian  
King Henrie of Nauarre, now since proclaimed and repu-  
ted the lawfull successor to the crowne and kingdome. All  
which notwithstanding the Duke de Maine resisted his au-  
thoritie, by meanes of the great forces sent him by the Po-  
pish enemies, and to the entent to displace and depose him  
vnlawfully, hath with his power sundry times set upon the  
Kinges Forces, and taken his chiefest Cities and walled  
Townes, and doeth withhold them vnlawfully from the  
King, contrarie to the dutie of a naturall subiect, so that after  
many late battailes and skirmishes, one onely battayle was  
fought vpon the fourth day of March aforesaid, where the  
enemy was thirtie thousand strong in the field, the King not  
hauing aboue ten thousand in all: besides there was newly  
come forth of the low Countries five thousand foot-men,  
and foureteene Companies of Horse-men, all which were ta-  
ken, slaine, and put to the sword, twelue hundred of the Hor-  
ses were drowned, and the rest taken by the Kings Souldi-  
ers. Before the Battaille began, for that the enemy was  
more then thre to one, (the King then being in such a place  
where he must fight it out or die) took courage and comfort-  
ed his Souldiers, shewing them that the cause was a iust  
cause, and did repose therefore his trust in God onely: in  
whose quarrell he fought, and he would defend him from the  
furie of his enemies, as he had sundry times before deliuered  
him from the like dangers: willing his Souldiers not to be  
daunted



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dunted with the multitude which came towards them: for  
said hee, I will bee the foremost, and will spende my dearest  
blood before any of you shall perish: which wordes did so en-  
courage the Souldiers that they fell to it, and got to a firme  
and faire peece of ground, being of great compasse, and kept  
that ground still and woulde not giue backe, whereby the  
enemy might haue any advantage: who for want of ground  
to fight and stirre themselves, the multitude pestered one an  
other, so that their great multitude and want of room was  
the greatest cause of their ouerthrowe, which the King  
perceiued, and encouraged his men to fight, who verie  
fiercely laide vpon the enemy, and broke their ranke and  
disordered their Battaille, whereupon the King to the great  
discomfort of the enemy, stept to the Standard bearer of  
the enemies Army, hee tooke away the Standard with his  
owne handes, and slue the bearer thereof, which did so  
encourage his Souldiers, that they fell to it so fiercely, as  
that they constrained the Duke to flie, when hee saue his  
owne brother slaine before his face, and was almost taken  
in the flight. The King had the enemy in the Chase seven  
Leagues, wherein there were a thousand men of name and  
account taken prisoners. The Countie Egmont was  
slaine in this Battaille, and Mounfieur de la Mount, was  
taken prisoner. Four hundred golden Chaynes and more,  
were found in the ridding of the Waggingins, and seven hun-  
dred Chests of pillage taken by the King, besides the Dukes  
Casket, wherein was enclosed his chiefeest Letters of priui-  
tie. All the Switzers haue surrendered themselves to the sub-  
jection and obedience of the King: And the enemies chiefeest  
field Peeces were taken.

Thus was the enemies forces greatly weakened and  
scattered, so that it is very likely Parris and the chiefeest  
Townes and places now repugnant against him, will not  
long hold out, but yeeld themselves speedily to his Maiesties  
mercy. God be blessed, he hath wonderfully preserved this  
godly



godly and christian Prince from danger, being still the most  
forwardest in the fight, and chased them almost eight houres  
together. The God of heauen prosper him and all the fauou-  
rers of the Christian Religion, that they may beate downe  
such as seeke the confusion thereof, and giue his enemies  
grace to see their owne folly and leave their blind ignorance,  
that either their conuersion may be speedily seene, with re-  
pentance of their former follies, or els their destruction pre-  
sently come vpon them, which God grant speedily, for his  
mercies sake, Amen. This first of March.

Your louing friend,

T. B.

### Another letter the 6. of March.

**T**he kings Maiessty sent for the gouernours  
and the Nobility, and for prouision of powder  
to giue battail to the Duke de Maine.  
The Duke pressed vpon the King, by rea-  
son of his Wallons, being foure thousand  
horse and one thousand boyle. The gouer-  
nour in the way met with two compaignes of footemen and  
discomforted them: and tooke theyr Captayn prisoners to  
Font delarche, vpon his arriual the King gaue battayl to  
the Duke, and put him to the worse. The Duke fled, most  
of the Burgonians were slaine, his ordinance lost: and foure  
thousand Switzers were receaued to mercy and the seruice  
of the King. Mounfier Mountpenier did very valiantly,  
he was a little hurt in the head, the Cownt Egmont Con-  
ductor of the Spaniards and Wallons, was slaine and their  
standard taken: the King was forced to the battayl by the  
Duke, and therefore could not refuse it. The Duke was  
moued thereto by the Popes legat, through discontentment  
grown among them of Paris, by reason of the charges they



has bene put into by the Duke and his friends done, and  
therefore grew to a consultation, whether better to yield to  
the King, or to those of the League: Sundry of the chieft  
murmured at the motion of Spain, which being objected,  
were the night following apprehended and committed to pri-  
son. The conclusion was the chiefe cause that the legat made  
in a name of battell, whether the Duke was obedient. To  
conclude, the enemy was three to one, and yet God be pray-  
sed few on the Kings side were hurt and the most part of the  
enemies were drowned, slayn, hurt, and taken prisoners in  
the battell.

The names of such chiefe persons as were slain and  
hurt on the enemies side.

Slaine.  
The Count Esmont, The Duke Brunsicke general  
of the Kestlers.



*I W R 300 the 22 161709*



